

Five Benchmarks of Meaningful Service

Group Self-Evaluation

Impact

- What impact are we having on the community? How do we know?
- How are we supporting the efforts of others in the community?

Quality

- How well are we serving? Communicating? Planning?
- Is the project or partnership well organized? If so, how?
- What is our personal investment in the work that we are doing?

Relationship

- How are we fostering relationships with fellow student volunteers?
- How are we fostering relationships with those we are serving?
- How are we fostering relationships with staff at our parenting agency?

Context

- What are we doing to understand the larger issues involved, possibly the root cause or the complexities?
- How does the role we are playing fit into the larger context of the agency we serve?
- What does this kind of work look like on a state, national, or global level?

Learning

- What are we doing to promote reflection and to debrief service experiences?
- What are we learning about ourselves through this experience?
- What implications do these realizations have for individual's majors or career paths?